

1. We are often told that being logical and rational is the most sensible way to approach problems. How does the novel show us that this isn't always the case?
2. What does this novel show us about the nature of truth? Does the novel show us that sometimes it is all right to lie, or tell "untruths?"
3. How does the novel help us to think about what is sensible, or what is "common sense," and what isn't?
4. What does the novel show us about the nature of trust? How does Christopher have his trust in his parents ruined? Do you understand his reactions? How would you react if you were in Christopher's situation?
5. It is often believed that people with syndromes like Christopher's are completely different than other people. Can you see any personality traits that you have in common with Christopher?
6. What does the novel have in common with a detective story?
7. How is the novel different from other stories you have read?
8. Comment on how the writer uses chapter breaks - what effect do they have?
9. Find a definition for irony in a dictionary or glossary of literary terms. Find five examples of how Mark Haddon uses irony in his novel.